2018

Academic Vocab List 12

Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at **www.vocabularyworkshop.com.**

UNIT 12

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.

1. abound
(ə baùnd′)

(*v.*) to be plentiful, be filled

Lush fruit trees _____ in the orchards of Central California.

SYNONYMS: burst with, overflow with, teem with
ANTONYMS: lack, want

2. braggart
(brag′ ərt)

(*n.*) a boaster; *(adj.)* boastful in a loud, annoying way

There seems to be a _____ in every family, who boasts about his or her achievements and worth.

Greek Mythology is filled with _____ gods and heroes who take more than a little pride in their deeds and skills.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) bigmouth, blowhard

3. cache
(kash)

(*n.*) a hiding place; something hidden or stored

We found a _____ of canned food hidden under the stairs in the cellar.

SYNONYMS: stockpile, hoard, store

4. clarification
(klar ə fə kā′ shən)

(*n.*) the act of making clear or understandable, an explanation

Reporters asked for a _____ of the politician's statement so that they could accurately report her position.

SYNONYMS: elucidation, explication

5. despondent
(di spän′ dənt)

(*adj.*) sad, without hope, discouraged

The doctor was _____ over the loss of his patient and dear friend.

SYNONYMS: dejected, depressed, forlorn
ANTONYMS: jubilant, elated

6. embezzle
(em bez′ əl)

(*v.*) to steal property entrusted to one's care

The senator's aide lost his job when he was caught trying to _____ campaign funds.

SYNONYMS: swindle, defraud

7. heartrending
(härt′ ren diŋ)

(*adj.*) causing mental pain or grief

The survivor told a _____ story about the shipwreck and the days she spent alone on the island.

SYNONYMS: moving, sad, heartbreaking, poignant
ANTONYMS: amusing, funny, hilarious

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8. leisurely
(lē′ zhər lē)

(*adj.*) unhurried, taking plenty of time; (*adv.*) in an easygoing or unhurried way

My parents enjoy taking a _____ stroll through the park on Sunday afternoon.

We ate _____ and spent hours talking about old times.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) slow, relaxed
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) hasty, hurried, rushed, hectic

9. lethargic
(lə thär′ jik)

(*adj.*) unnaturally sleepy; dull, slow moving; indifferent

The twins often become _____ after eating a large meal at their grandmother's house.

SYNONYMS: lazy, sluggish, listless
ANTONYMS: wide-awake, alert, energetic, dynamic

10. malady
(mal′ əd ē)

(*n.*) a sickness, illness, disease, disorder

Rheumatic fever, usually a childhood _____, can cause permanent damage to the heart.

SYNONYMS: ailment, indisposition
ANTONYMS: health, well-being

11. mellow
(mel′ ō)

(*adj.*) ripe, well-matured; soft, sweet, and rich; gentle, pleasant; (*v.*) to become gentle and sweet

Hawaii is known for its _____ fruit, all of which is soft, sweet, ripe, and juicy.

Mom continued to hope that her upstart brother would _____ with age and experience.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) dulcet, creamy
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) unripe, green, harsh, grating, strident

12. nomadic
(nō ma′ dik)

(*adj.*) wandering, moving about from place to place

Many groups in the desert live a _____ life, moving about in search of water and grazing land.

SYNONYMS: roving, roaming, vagrant, migratory, itinerant
ANTONYMS: stationary, settled, rooted, fixed

13. piecemeal
(pēs′ mēl)

(*adj.*) one piece at a time; (*adv.*) gradually

The committee's _____ approach to the problem was taking more time and money than the school board could afford.

Patchwork quilts are sewn _____.

SYNONYM: (*adv.*) bit by bit
ANTONYM: (*adv.*) all at once

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14. quest
(kwest)

(*n.*) a search, hunt; (*v.*) to search, seek, ask

In _____ of a safe water route to the Pacific, Lewis and Clark journeyed more than three thousand miles.

Diplomats _____ for peaceful solutions to global problems.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) pursuit, venture

15. random
(ran′ dəm)

(*adj.*) by chance, not planned or prearranged; irregular

According to a _____ sampling of voters, Proposition 10 seems to be the most important issue on the ballot.

SYNONYMS: haphazard, arbitrary
ANTONYMS: planned, deliberate, systematic

16. rant
(rant)

(*v.*) to speak wildly and noisily; (*n.*) loud, violent talk

When the speaker began to _____ like a rabble-rouser, the crowd shouted him down.

Listening to the _____ of that radio personality makes me want to give up on talk shows.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) rave, fume, spout, harangue
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) whisper, mumble

17. reinforce
(rē in fôrs′)

(*v.*) to make stronger with new materials or support

They used steel beams to _____ the structure of the building.

SYNONYMS: strengthen, bolster, prop up, support
ANTONYMS: weaken, undermine, sap, impair

18. seclusion
(si klü′ zhən)

(*n.*) isolation from others, solitude

Some actors choose to live in _____, away from the prying eyes of journalists.

SYNONYMS: aloneness, solitariness
ANTONYM: the thick of things

19. status
(stā′ təs)

(*n.*) a person's condition or position in the eyes of the law; relative rank or standing, especially in society; prestige

Winning the prestigious book award boosted the young writer's literary _____.

SYNONYMS: situation, recognition

20. turmoil
(tər′ moil)

(*n.*) a state of great confusion or disorder; mental strain or agitation

For many years after the Civil War, the South remained a society in _____.

SYNONYMS: upheaval, tumult, chaos
ANTONYMS: peace and quiet, order

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From the words for this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. After putting up all week with the noise and confusion of life in the big city, I enjoy the _____ of my mountain retreat on weekends.
2. The lake so _____ with trout and pickerel that even a person with my limited skill in fishing can catch them easily.
3. Most detectives solve crimes in a(n) _____ fashion, as clues come to light, rather than all at once.
4. Though Ponce de León's _____ for the Fountain of Youth proved futile, he did discover Florida.
5. The _____ of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era was succeeded by 100 years of relative peace and quiet in Europe.
6. Apparently, the man could pay off his staggering gambling debts only by _____ funds from the company that employed him.
7. The park is always full of soapbox orators _____ about the inequality of government or society.
8. The tenor's voice was rich and _____, but the baritone's sounded somewhat harsh and unpleasant.
9. Instead of trying to decide which applicants were best suited for the job, he selected two of them at _____.
10. It's natural to feel a little _____ over not getting the job, but don't let that prevent you from applying for other positions.
11. At first, when I couldn't make out what she wanted me to do, I asked her for some _____ of her instructions.
12. In order to prevent the illegal entry of aliens into the United States, it has been necessary to _____ our border patrols.
13. Yesterday, I read a truly _____ account of the plight of millions of Africans suffering from the effects of a severe famine.
14. The two brothers are both fine athletes, but one is quiet and modest, while the other is an awful _____.
15. When I first entered this country, I was classified as a "resident alien," but my _____ has changed since then.
16. Arthritis is a _____ that attacks many millions of people, especially in middle and old age.
17. During warm months, foxes bury many animals they have killed, with the result that they have _____ to tide them over the winter.

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18. Hundreds of homeless people now lead essentially _____ existences on the streets of our major cities.
19. Though I am always full of energy in the morning, I start to become a little _____ as the day wears on.
20. Every once in a while, I like to take time out from my busy schedule to have a _____ dinner with old friends.

Synonyms

*Choose the word from this unit that is **the same** or **most nearly the same** in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.*

1. was among the last **roving** groups in Lapland _____
2. achieved a high **standing** among her peers _____
3. students in **pursuit** of knowledge _____
4. will live in **solitude** for the winter _____
5. legal terms that will need **explication** _____
6. attempted to **steal** money from the trust fund _____
7. began to **rave** at the hostile audience _____
8. was caught up in the **chaos** left by the storm _____
9. a **hoard** of gold bullion _____
10. **dejected** over the loss of his job _____
11. to **bolster** belief in our system of government _____
12. is just another conceited **boaster** _____
13. rehearsed the play **bit by bit** _____
14. suffers from a serious **illness** _____
15. inventive minds that **teem with** ideas _____

Antonyms

*Choose the word from this unit that is **most nearly opposite** in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.*

16. took a **rushed** trip down the Mississippi River _____
17. is always **energetic** on Monday _____
18. has a **strident** personality _____
19. told a **hilarious** story about their escape _____
20. witnessed a **deliberate** act of kindness _____

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Vocabulary in Context

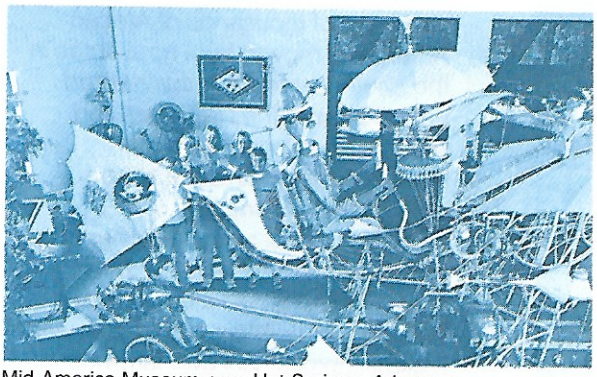
*Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.*

(Line)

A Museum for Every Taste

The United States **abounds with** museums. There are more than 8,000 of them, from the popular, like Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, to the obscure, like the Devil's Rope Museum, which displays all types of barbed wire, in McLean, Texas. In fact, if your interest is specialized, chances are you can pursue it at one (5) of the growing number of offbeat museums in our nation.

For example, if wacky airplanes are your cup of tea, you might make your way to the Mid-America Museum, west of Hot Springs, Arkansas, where a **cache** of playful contraptions can be seen and touched. If, on the other hand, your **quest** is for the perfect wave, you can visit "the (10) world's first surfing museum," in Santa Cruz, California.



Mid-America Museum near Hot Springs, Arkansas

If you happen to prefer roller skates to waves, don't be **despondent**—just head to the National Museum of Roller (15) Skating in Lincoln, Nebraska. There you will find antique roller skates, costumes, motorized skates, and even old skate keys. However, if it's a **mellow** musical experience you're (20) after, your choice may be the Miles Musical Museum in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. On a **leisurely** tour, the owners will entertain you by cranking up any number of antique musical machines.

No matter how absurd they may seem, these offbeat museums are true (25) American treasures. They preserve our shared past by keeping the things that matter to us and also reveal a good deal about our people and country. With these goals in mind, it shouldn't surprise you to know that there is even a museum that honors American know-how—for that's exactly the aim of the Rough and Tumble Engineers' Museum in Kinzers, Pennsylvania. There, old steam engines, threshers, (30) and tractors are fixed to run almost like new, proving that in this country, no matter how far-out your interest, there is probably a museum just for you.

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1. The meaning of **abounds with** (line 1) is
a. bounces with c. is supplied with
b. lacks d. overflows with

2. Cache (line 7) most nearly means
a. case c. cave
b. store d. cellar

3. Quest (line 8) is best defined as
a. desire c. search
b. need d. find

4. Despondent (line 13) is best defined as
a. elated c. discouraged
b. irresponsible d. hopeful

5. The meaning of **mellow** in (line 19) is
a. dulcet c. colorful
b. harsh d. funny

6. Leisurely (line 22) most nearly means
a. hasty c. hectic
b. unhurried d. playful